

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF FLORENCE COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2020, AT 6:00 P.M., IN THE FLORENCE TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, LOCATED AT 775 N. MAIN STREET, FLORENCE, ARIZONA.

SPECIAL NOTICE REGARDING PUBLIC MEETINGS

Due to the risks to public health caused by the possible spread of the COVID-19 virus at public gatherings, the Town of Florence has determined that public meetings will be indefinitely held through technological means. Meetings will be open to the public through technological means. In reliance on, and in compliance with, the March 13, 2020 Opinion issued by Attorney General Mark Brnovich, and in conjunction with the Emergency Proclamation signed by Mayor Tara Walter, on March 18, 2020. The Town of Florence provides this special advance notice of the technological means through which public meetings may be accessed. While this special notice is in effect, public comment at meetings will only be accepted through written submissions, which may or may not be read aloud during meetings.

The agenda for this meeting is as follows:

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Walter called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Tara Walter, John Anderson, Karen Wall, Kristen Larsen, Michelle Cordes, Judy Hughes

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Walter called for a moment of silence.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Walter led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Call to the Public for public comment on issues within the jurisdiction of the Town Council. Council rules limit public comment to three minutes. Individual Councilmembers may respond to criticism made by those commenting, may ask staff to review a matter raised or may ask that a matter be put on a future agenda. However, members of the Council shall not discuss or take action on any matter during an open call to the public unless the matters are properly noticed for discussion and legal action.

There were no public comments.

CONSENT: All items on the consent agenda will be handled by a single vote as part of the consent agenda, unless a Councilmember or a member of the public objects at the time the agenda item is called.

Approval of the six Returning Stronger Grant applications received, in the amount of \$39,153.95.

Approval of the creation of the Florence Returning Stronger Phase II Grant Program, under the conditions outlined in the application.

Approval to purchase and install six mobile radios in fire apparatus through a Department of Homeland Security (DOHS) grant and the Fire Department's Maintenance Budget, in an amount not to exceed \$44,107.

Approval to purchase and install 10 mobile computers in fire apparatus through a Gila River Indian Community Grant in an amount not to exceed \$54,665.27

Approval of the October 5, October 8, and October 19, 2020 Town Council Meeting minutes.

Receive and file the following board and commission minutes:

Receive and file the October 1, 2020 Planning and Zoning Commission minutes.

On motion of Vice Mayor Anderson, seconded by Councilmember Larsen, and carried (6-0) to approve the Consent Agenda, as written.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion/Approval/Disapproval of temporarily assigning a 7:00 p.m. start time to all Town Council Meetings until the 2021 Council Rules of Procedures are reviewed and adopted.

Vice-Mayor Anderson stated that it is sometimes difficult for some of the Council to make the 6:00 pm meeting and suggested moving it to 7:00 pm to make it more convenient for everyone.

Mayor Walter stated that she does not have an issue with the meetings starting at 6:00 pm.

Councilmember Larsen stated that she is fine with the meetings starting at 6:00 pm. Meetings starting before 6:00 pm can be a more challenging. She would prefer that the time remain the same until the new Council is seated and it can be discussed then.

Vice-Mayor Anderson stated that there are Council who are having to call in while they are driving to the meeting which is why he suggested the alternate start time.

Councilmember Cordes stated the concern was that there were Councilmembers driving while attending a Zoom Council meeting, which is a safety issue. The suggestion to change the meeting start time was for a temporary time change until the new Council is seated. She is fine with either of the start times; however, she is also concerned about safety.

Mayor Walter stated that the executive sessions can be scheduled at the end of a Council meeting, on the 2nd or 4th Mondays of the month, or by a special meeting.

Vice-Mayor Anderson withdrew this item.

Discussion/Approval/Disapproval of authorizing the Town Manager to purchase seven laptops and seven air cards for the Town Council using Council contingencies.

Vice Mayor Anderson stated that the laptop that is issued to him is outdated. All of the Council laptops need to be upgraded, specifically with the Council now attending their meetings via Zoom. It is important for Council to be able to easily access their packets, etc. and to be able to work remotely.

Councilmember Larsen stated that she does not understand why the Town needs to spend extra money for Apple brand products. She was recently issued a laptop.

Vice-Mayor Anderson corrected Councilmember Larsen and advised her that the Town was not purchasing Apple brand products, but rather Microsoft laptops.

Ms. Lisa Garcia, Deputy Town Manager/Town Clerk, stated that approximately six years ago, the Town purchased seven laptops for Council. The intent was for the Council to go paperless and for staff to no longer produce paper packets. The Town has not purchased any other laptops for Council since that time. Staff is still creating paper packets for some of the Council.

Ms. Garcia stated Vice-Mayor Anderson contacted staff and Mr. Trenton Shaffer, IT Manager, provided his recommendation for the laptops, which are Microsoft Surface laptops. The information with the specifications are included in the agenda packet. Funding for the laptops will be paid for by the Council contingency fund.

Mayor Walter asked if the Council can elect to forgo a new laptop and continue using the one issued to them.

Ms. Garcia stated that initially seven laptops were purchased. Some of the Council elected not to use the laptops so they are currently being used by staff.

Mr. Shaffer stated that the current laptops have dated hardware. Staff can perform a hardware refresh if Council elects to retain their issued laptops; however, it is his recommendation to replace the laptops. Councilmember Larsen was issued a laptop that was purchased for staff to utilize during the Covid-19 pandemic. Currently, there are no additional laptops that can be issued.

Ms. Garcia stated that the Clerk's Office would recommend that Council go paperless should they wish to purchase the laptops.

Councilmember Cordes stated that the current laptops are outdated. She is in favor of purchasing the new laptops.

Councilmember Larsen is concerned about ensuring there is sufficient funding for the purchase of the laptops.

Councilmember Cordes suggested that training be provided if the Council elects to purchase laptops.

Ms. Garcia stated that the request is to purchase seven laptops and seven air cards (hot spots). She noted that there will be an ongoing annual cost of \$5,000 for the hotspots. The purchasing amount is under the Manager's limit; however, because the request is to utilize funding from the Council Contingency line item, it is being brought before Council for consideration.

Vice-Mayor Anderson stated that the hotspots are Verizon and can be purchased for various carriers, depending on each Councilmember's needs.

Mr. Shaffer stated that he has the ability to purchase from multiple carriers. He stated Verizon has very good coverage in our area; however, there are some dead spots. Air cards are not needed if you have internet access. The cost is between \$35 and \$50 monthly for each card depending on the amount of data needed.

Councilmember Larsen asked if the Town will be in a contract.

Mr. Shaffer stated that there is no contract and they can cancel at any time.

Councilmember Larsen clarified that laptops and air cards will not be purchased for those who do not need one.

Ms. Garcia stated that each Councilmember will have the option to receive a new laptop and air card if they need one.

On motion of Vice Mayor Anderson, seconded by Councilmember Cordes, and carried (6-0) to approve authorizing the Town Manager to purchase seven laptops and seven air cards for the Town Council using Council contingencies.

Resolution No. 1755-20:

Mayor Walter read Resolution No. 1755-20 by title only.

Discussion/Approval/Disapproval of A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF FLORENCE, PINAL COUNTY, ARIZONA, APPROVING THE AMENDED FINAL PLAT FOR SUNRISE ESTATES II; AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION BY THE TOWN MANAGER OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS.

Mr. Larry Harmer, Senior Planner, stated the Sunrise Estates I and II were platted in 2005 and is located at the southeast corner of West Butte Avenue and South Centennial Park Avenue. Phase II was never built upon, with the exception of two model homes. The project then went dormant. Sunrise Estates II has 89 finished lots. The infrastructure improvements for Sunrise Estates II has been sitting unused since that time. LGI Homes has purchased Sunrise Estates II with the intent of building 83 new homes. The reduction of the number of homes is the result of providing

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additional open space and adding storm water retention. LGI Homes will be testing and, if necessary, upgrading any of the infrastructure that has been degraded over time due to lack of use. Construction of new homes will aid in supporting the infill goals of the Town Core Area.

Vice-Mayor Anderson inquired who will pave the other half of 16th Street.

Mr. Harmer stated that this was a preliminary plat that was approved and the site was developed over 15 years ago. This is amending the existing final plat that was recorded and infrastructure was built at that time.

Mr. Chris Salas, Public Works Director, stated the Town will do the improvements to the northern part of Centennial Park Avenue as it is not part of the Phase II development. The road will be widened to be a collector road, mirroring what is on the east side.

Councilmember Wall inquired if the price range for the homes have been established.

Mr. Harmer stated that the price range has not been finalized, but assumes it would be \$190,000 - \$220,000. The homes have gone through the design review and they will be similar to those homes in Sunrise Estates Phase I.

On motion of Councilmember Wall, seconded by Councilmember Larsen, and carried (6-0) to adopt Resolution No. 1755-20.

Resolution No. 1756-20:

Mayor Walter read Resolution No. 1756-20 by title only.

Discussion/Approval/Disapproval of A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF FLORENCE, PINAL COUNTY, ARIZONA, APPROVING THE FINAL PLAT FOR MESQUITE TRAILS PARCEL 6; AND AUTHORIZING EXECUTION BY THE TOWN MANAGER OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS.

Mr. Harmer stated the development began approximately 16 years ago. It was master planned while it was still in Pinal County, and annexed into the Town in May 2005. The original documents called for a maximum of 2,178 single family units. Parcel 6 Preliminary Plat is the only parcel that has gone through the Town from start to finish. It is located on the southeast corner of Felix Road and the future extension of East Heritage Road, which is east of Parcels 1 -5, adjacent to Magma Wash. The gross acres are approximately 24 acres and has 107 proposed lots. The final plats for Parcels 1 – 5 were recorded in 2006 and contain 544 residential lots which are part of the total 2,178 lots, and is 118 acres in total. The final plat and infrastructure plans has been reviewed and approved by the Town Engineer.

Mr. Harmer stated each of the developed parcels will have its own amounts of dedicated space to it, with some of it dedicated to retention basins for storm water.

Mr. Harmer stated that neither of the parcels will be impacted by the 100 year floodplain of Magma Wash. The Master Drainage Report analyzed the impact of those flows and is in the Town's possession for review and approval.

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Mr. Harmer stated that this final plat has gone before the Planning and Zoning Commission with the approval of the preliminary plat and subsequent to that the improvement plans were submitted for review and final plat approval.

Mr. Harmer stated that a Streetlight Improvement District Application will come before Council for this development in the near future.

Vice-Mayor Anderson inquired if the Town has a development agreement for this.

Mr. Brent Billingsley, Town Manager, stated that the Town has a development agreement on this property as part of the annexation.

Vice-Mayor Anderson stated that his concern is with Johnson Utilities. He inquired where the wastewater will go to.

Mr. Billingsley stated that the Town has been working with Epcor and Johnson Utilities on water and wastewater solutions for the Mesquite Trails development. He stated that as part of the CCRs, the wastewater flow for this portion of Mesquite Trails was to go to the Section 11 Plant; but staff along with Epor and Johnson Utilities are working on a plan to route the flow to the Anthem Plant instead.

Vice-Mayor Anderson stated that he believes the Anthem Plant is overtaxed based on the overage they are creating.

Mr. Billingsley stated that recently Pulte contracted with an engineering firm to do a capacity analysis for both the collection system and the plant. There are ongoing discussions with the Town, Epcor and Johnson Utilities in terms of how they will be serviced.

Councilmember Cordes inquired if they are considering the future homes to be built in Anthem as well.

Mr. Billingsley stated that consideration of all Anthem future buildout is part of the analysis. From Pulte's standpoint, when it paid a capacity fee and line extension fee to build the infrastructure for Anthem, it included a certain number of lots and a certain amount of density based on the PAD and approved final plats.

Councilmember Wall inquired who the developer is.

Mr. Harmer stated that the developer is a development company called Silver Fern, LLC, and have not announced a homebuilder at t this time.

Mr. Billingsley stated that the developer is part of the platting for the North South Corridor and has reserved the parcels where the corridor may go through.

On motion of Vice Mayor Anderson, seconded by Councilmember Larsen, and carried (6-0) to adopt Resolution No. 1756-20.

Resolution No. 1757-20:

Mayor Walter read Resolution No. 1757-20 by title only.

Discussion/Approval/Disapproval of A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF FLORENCE, PINAL COUNTY, ARIZONA, DECLARING AND ADOPTING THE RESULTS OF THE GENERAL ELECTION HELD ON NOVEMBER 3, 2020.

Ms. Lisa Garcia, Deputy Town Manager/Town Clerk, stated that the resolution is to canvass the General Election results which was held on November 3, 2020. There were 8,088 registered voters. The ballots cast were 6,286 which equates to 78.72%. She stated that the votes cast were:

Early ballot received:	5,398
Visited Polling Sites:	868
Provisional Ballots:	20

Votes Received:

Mayor:	
Kyle Larson:	2,815
Tara Walter:	2,853

Councilmembers:	
Johnie F. Mendoza	2,401
Arthur "Snake" Neal	2,504
Bill Tanner	2,313
Vallarie Woolridge	1,790

Ms. Garcia stated that Certificates of Election are issued to Tara Walter for the Mayoral seat, and Johnie F. Mendoza, and Arthur "Snake" Neal for the two Councilmember seats.

Ms. Garcia stated that the mayoral election is held every four years. She provided statistical information regarding voter turnout for the general and primary elections and noted that generally, the mayoral elections yield a higher voter turnout. The voter turnout has remained consistent for both the primary and general elections.

Ms. Garcia thanked everyone who ran for Council. She invited those who ran for Council to consider applying for a board or commission.

Ms. Garcia stated the Town will have the Swearing In Ceremony on December 14, 2020,

Councilmember Hughes inquired what caused the delay in obtaining the results for the election.

Ms. Garcia explained the election process regarding how the ballots are counted as the early ballots are received. She explained as it gets closer to Election Day the focus is then turned to the ground election. It is a lengthy process and this election was the same as all others. She stated that Pinal County did its due diligence to ensure that every vote was counted.

On motion of Councilmember Larsen, seconded by Vice Mayor Anderson, and carried (6-0) to adopt Resolution No. 1757-20.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Billingsley stated with regards to what is happening due to Covid-19, the Town is encouraging everyone to practice social distancing, wear a mask, and wash your hands. With regards to Covid-19, it has significantly worsened in Arizona and Pinal County. As a state, the seven day average has increased by 50% and averaging 24,059 new cases per day. Florence has approximately 13 new cases per day. There were 92 new cases last week for Florence's zip code, 12 of which were from the prisons. With regards to intensive care units, statewide capacity usage is at 88%. The average rate that the governor uses to determine enforcement based on his executive order, has been over 10% in Pinal County for the last two weeks. This week, Pinal County is at 11.8%.

Mr. Billingsley stated that Mr. Elan Vallender has been hired as the new Economic Development Director. He will start on December 7, 2020 and will be located at Town Hall.

Mayor Walter stated that the Arizona Office of Tourism (AOT) Rural Cooperative Marketing Program provides an opportunity to participate in marketing opportunities that expand travel and tourism throughout the State. The Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce (Chamber) applied to the program and were approved to purchase cooperative advertising and other services. This is a 50/50 match program whereby the Town and AOT each pay 50% of the cost. It provides funding for projects that cost up to \$50,000 with a \$25,000 local match. The Chamber's application included print media, digital media, and an application for the Arizona Visitor Information Center Certificate, mobile location data services and brand identity development and planning. The total project cost is \$41,793. The focus areas are the Phoenix and Tucson markets and the digital media is regional and statewide. The Local First Arizona will provide the brand identity and planning services. The Town has verbally agreed to pay the local match of \$20,896.50. Town staff will work with the Chamber to procure the services.

Mr. Billingsley stated that the \$20,896.50 match will be expensed from the Manager's contingency fund.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

There were no public comments.

CALL TO THE COUNCIL – CURRENT EVENTS ONLY

Councilmember Larsen congratulated those who won the election. She invited all candidates to join a board or commission. She asked everyone to enjoy the outside weather and remain safe.

Councilmember Hughes welcomed the Economic Development Director to the Town.

Councilmember Cordes stated that the election was a very tight race. She stated that the public has spoken and want change. She stated that she experienced isolation while she was ill and asked everyone to check in on your neighbors. It is important to be there for one another. She wished everyone a nice thanksgiving.

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Vice-Mayor Anderson thanked Councilmember Wall for her years of service and expressed his appreciation for all that she has done for the Town. He will miss her.

Vice-Mayor Anderson stated that the Town has received several grants for radios and computers recently. He asked the Police and Fire Department to provide a listing of all that is needed to bring the entire department up to date, specifically to radios and equipment.

Vic-Mayor Anderson attended the Arts and Culture Show and was disappointed that it was not successful. The weather was partly due to the issue. He apologized to the vendors that the Town did not have a better turnout.

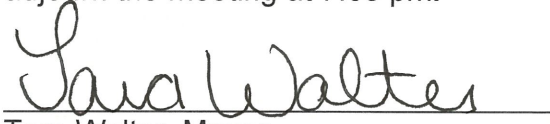
Vice-Mayor Anderson stated that there is an issue with people speeding in the crosswalks in near proximity to the schools. He stated that this needs to be addressed and asked that the speed limits be changed.

Mr. Billingsley stated that this has been addressed with the Public Works Director and Police Chief. The sounds were changed to read "when children are present" as part of the Safe Routes to School Study. He stated that this will need to be addressed by the Town Engineer and Police Chief for further review.

Mayor Walter thanked everyone who voted. She encouraged everyone to continue to cast your vote for all elections. She encouraged everyone to consider serving on a board and commission. She stated the Arts and Culture Show started out on Saturday with nine booths and only five booths on Sunday. She stated that this is their first year and will get better every year.

ADJOURNMENT


On motion of Vice Mayor Anderson, seconded by Councilmember Larsen, and carried (6-0) to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 pm.


Tara Walter, Mayor

ATTEST:


Lisa Garcia, Town Clerk

I certify that the following is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Florence Town Council meeting held on November 16, 2020, and that the meeting was duly called to order and that a quorum was present.


Lisa Garcia, Town Clerk

